

INTRODUCTION OF THE MILLIPED FAMILY RHINOCRICIDAE IN FLORIDA (SPIROBOLIDA)¹

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ABSTRACT: The spirobolidan milliped family Rhinocricidae is authentically documented from the "continental" United States for the first time, from an invasion of an unidentifiable, introduced species, provisionally assigned to *Eurhinocricus*, at Plantation Key Nursery in Tavernier, Monroe County, Florida. Previous records from the United States and Canada, all erroneous, and proximate ones from Mexico and Caribbean islands are summarized. A brief description of this form and gonopod illustrations are presented to facilitate identification when revisionary studies in this family enable accurate determinations. A single interception of a different rhinocricid, apparently also originating in Florida, is documented from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The milliped family Rhinocricidae is the most diverse representative of the order Spirobolida in the Western Hemisphere south of the continental United States and also occurs in the Oriental and Australian biogeographic regions (Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Australia, the Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and a few other miscellaneous Pacific islands) (Hoffman 1980, 1999; Jeekel 2001). It is well represented in the Greater and Lesser Antilles but has not been recorded from the Bahamas or the Turks and Caicos Islands; one species, *Anadenobolus monilicornis* (Porat), has been introduced into Bermuda (Chamberlin 1920, Hoffman 1999). Chamberlin (1920) also proposed *Rhinocricus ectus* for two females from Bermuda that he thought were close to *Anadenobolus consociatus* (Pocock) from Union Island and Grenada, in the Lesser Antilles. To the best of our knowledge, *R. ectus*, has not been treated since; it almost certainly does not belong in *Rhinocricus* Karsch, which is now restricted to four species in Cuba and Puerto Rico (Hoffman 1960, 1980, 1999). Aside from the territories in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands (Chamberlin 1918; Loomis 1941, 1970; Vélez 1963; Hoffman 1999), the Rhinocricidae has not been authentically recorded from the United States or any of its possessions, and it undoubtedly is not indigenous to the lower 48 states because, with the amount of collecting that has taken place in southern border areas near Mexico, in south Florida, and the Gulf Coastal states, it surely would have been found by now. Two species have been described from the continental United States and one from Canada (Chamberlin and Hoffman 1958), all unquestionably erroneous — *R. tidius* Chamberlin from Ft. Tejon, Kern County, California, synonymized with *Eurhinocricus fissus* Verhoeff by

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